

How the Christian Church in America is

FAILING

Men

*A **Wake-Up Call***

*that left untended will become a **Requiem***



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Part One Review — The Role of Senior Pastors

To begin this strong message, we looked at sobering statistics of Christian church men.

- 1) **Marriage Infidelity:** 30+% of born-again married men admitted to having affairs.
- 2) **Divorce:** 38% of people in church today have been divorced.
- 3) **Addictions:** 54% of pastors viewed pornography in the last year; 37% admit it is a current struggle. 95% of Christian men looked at porn; 54% do so with regularity. 18% of born-again Christian men admit addiction to porn. It gets worse with millennials: 77% view at least monthly; 36% daily; 32% admit having an addiction.

Conclusions and Questions:

- 1) We don't need a roadmap out of this malaise. We need a battle plan!
- 2) No individual has a greater role and responsibility for the health and development of biblical Christian men than the senior pastor.
- 3) Numbers matter. A challenge was issued to do an analysis of the total number men in their churches, the number engaged in "man communities", and those being disciplined by the pastor.
- 4) We listed five reasons more senior pastors are not fully invested in taking up this mandate to produce an army of biblical Christian men befitting our King and executing His commission?

Part Two Review – How Christian Men are Failing the Church

Two truths stand out as we seek to own, understand, and correct our part of this failure.

- 1) God is calling out His men today just as He did the prophet Ezekiel's time.
- 2) The greatest "man issue" facing the Christian church today is passivity.

We noted that men need to be involved in doing some calling out of our own to pastors and church leaders and three reasons we do not engage: **Time. Fear. Pride.**

Part Three – The Vital Role of Christian Women in the Church

A Story Too Often **Untold**

She had no idea what the aftermath of her divorce would bring for herself and her children. Wounded and wondering, she did her best to put on a good face for the children and the church. But serious heart issues - hurt, confusion, and anger - left her mind vulnerable with no capacity to battle thoughts that, heretofore, would never have found a place to land.

For the first time since she became a Christian, doubts began to trickle in—doubts about the goodness of God and value of her life spent in church. And what of her ten-year old son? How would he respond to his dad's departure and the new family arrangement? As he moves into manhood, will he turn to or from the Lord?

A “good Christian man” was how most described her husband—a part he played well for years. But like too many “Christian” church men, spiritually he was a mile wide and an inch deep. He had no community with other Christian men in his life nor any idea what accountability meant. So, he donned the mask and played the role—even serving in various roles of leadership on occasion.

Like too many “Christian” men, he chose to go solo and naked, feigning the full armor of God—verses he knew well. And, as he frequently does, our fierce, stealth enemy, Satan, patiently bided his time until just the right moment of weakness. Like the house built on sand Jesus described in Matthew 7: 27, “great was its (his) fall. “

Humpty Dumpty fell off the wall and broke into pieces. O that fallen men would suffer only such a fate. But when a “Christian” man falls like this, more than his shell is broken. He breaks his covenant with God, his vow to his wife, and damages his relationship with his children.

Too many Christian women in churches in America have found themselves in this or similar places asking questions. Questions of themselves. Questions of the church.

The message of this article is a wake-up call out to the church for the ongoing failure to be more intentional in having a vision for and executing plans that hold to the biblical mandate to ***build Christian men according to God's design, plan, and purpose.***

The responsibilities of senior pastors and men in this fail were discussed in Part One and Two, respectively. It may seem odd to include Christian women in the church as culpable in this fail, but they also share part of the blame.

Before diving into the specifics, I felt led to add this brief note of assurance and affirmation. Nothing in this article should in any way be construed as sexist or ignoring the incredible value and esteem God placed on women throughout biblical history that continues today.

Women were also created in His image, our equal in His sight—unique in design and purpose as described throughout His Word. As a man who has been married to the same amazing woman for thirty-four years and dad to an incredible daughter, I have done my best to hold that biblical view with love, honor, and respect.

Having only been married thirty-four years, I make no claim as an expert on my wife or women, in general. Most wives will attest, and I admit on behalf of men, we are slow learners. But I have learned a few things about the spiritual heart of my wife and other Christian women I can discuss with a high degree of certainty.

My wife values godliness—in her life, the lives of our children, and, of course, me. She has depended on me all these years to be the spiritual leader of our family—stand in the gap for her and our kids in terms of prayer, provision, and protection.

To effectively do that, she knows I need to make time to build and maintain a relationship with the Lord. She also desires the fellowship of a healthy community of believers (church). And, while this goes mostly unspoken, she hopes I will continue to grow in Christ as a man, teach and lead our sons into biblical manhood, and be personally accountable.

My wife is no exception in her views and the desires of her heart for the men in her life. I do not know a Christian woman, wife, or mother who does not long for the “boys to men” in her life to be trained and equipped in what it means to be biblical Christian men.

Hard to argue with any of that, so where does the “fail” aspect enter this discussion? First, let me say it has nothing to do with what Christian church women are *doing* in their roles as wives, moms, or concerned church members. It is what you are NOT doing that contributes to and feeds the problem.

One of my personal failures as a young husband and dad was not listening well to the heart of my wife in our early years. Eventually, the Holy Spirit taught me the incredible value of seeking her input to the point that I have vetted nearly everything in my life with her since those woodshed moments. Perhaps in those early days she was not more proactive in letting her heart and mind be known in such matters because she thought I did not care or would not value it or both. My stupidity-my loss!

I share that personal story because I fear that Christian church women may have similar feelings when it comes to speaking up and out on issues of such great importance to their families and the body of Christ—especially those related to men. Maybe they think the senior pastor or church leaders, perhaps even their husbands, are not interested or would not heed their input or opinions. The truth is that this completely depends on the level of biblical, Spirit-filled leadership in your home or church. Wise men not only listen, but seek out such input.

Another factor that keeps Christian women from engaging in such a process is they have been wounded by church men who said all the right things, but when it came to *walking the talk*, they were struggling with their own issues and too embarrassed to admit it. Too many church men have no idea what a biblical Christian man really looks like—how we are supposed to live and love. The statistics I shared, and the even more horrifying ones on spousal abuse, not only speak to this problem...**they shout it!**

So, my dear sisters in Christ, here is my call-out to you.

You have failed in not standing up and speaking out to make your feelings known and voices heard in such a serious matter that affects current and future generations of men.

Questions Christian church women should ask senior pastors and church leadership:

- What are we doing in our church to build biblical Christian boys and men?
- Ask the questions I suggested senior pastors ask themselves.
 - Do you have a vision for men in this church?
 - Do we have a “man plan” that begins with our boys?
- Can I trust the development of my husband and, equally importantly, my sons to this church?

While I know the following may be more difficult in some homes, the following questions should be asked of husbands and sons in your life.

- What are they are doing to grow their relationship with the Lord and, in particular, the “man” areas.
- Are they in community with other Christian men?
- Is anyone holding them accountable to the above? This is not a good responsibility for a wife or mom. Another man or men best serve this role—“iron sharpens iron” kind of thing.

Single Moms and the Church. I also have a word for single moms in the church. You absolutely have the right to expect biblical Christian men in your church to step up and into the life of your son to help him grow and understand biblical manhood. The issues created by absentee dads are huge. I deal with the aftermath of that all the time in my ministry to men at missions and prisons.

My dear sisters in Christ, what are you waiting on? The body of Christ is incomplete without you and less served when you remain silent on what I consider a serious crisis in the Christian church today—*building biblical Christian men who understand what it means to love and live as Jesus did. That includes your husbands, sons, and grandsons.*

Walter

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